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Winning Is Everything, Or Is It?

I believe competition reveals hidden characteristics in people.

In any competition, the ultimate goal is to win.  Most people, when thinking of competition, will direct their attention to athletics.  Competition is not limited to athletics, as it may include anything from an academic competition to a bake-off.  The numerous varying ways in which people view winning reveal certain hidden characteristics throughout these different forms of competition.  
  
If you know anyone in athletics, you will most likely agree that these athletes show different emotions, passions, feelings, and actions during their sporting event as compared to how they function in normal, everyday life.  Some people demonstrate acceptable sportsmanlike conduct and show what I like to call *emotional ice*.  *Emotional ice* is a term my mom used to describe me when I play sports.  I show no emotion, negative or positive, through my attitude or my mouth; my play exposes my passions and emotions.  On the contrary, a countless number of athletes demonstrate poor sportsmanship, and they set horrible examples for others watching them.  In the realm of athletics, enthusiasm and excitement along with the determination to be successful generally unveils either malicious inner-characteristics or determined, sportsmanlike inner-characteristics.  
  
I play soccer in the fall and basketball in the winter.  Both of these sports are extremely competitive and are very physical despite what some people may think.  I will admit, I have knocked some opposing players to the ground, tripped them, and even shoved them, but not in an intentional violent manner.  Whenever someone goes down, regardless of whether or not that person was injured, I always make sure to offer my hand and help him or her back up.  Not only does this action prove worthy of good sportsmanlike conduct, but it will also diffuse any fighting or dirty play between me and that other player in the near future.  
  
Some of my friends are the counter-me.  Every time there is contact, some of my teammates reveal their anger towards the opposing player through desperate attempts to cause injury.  This is what coaches and referees call *dirty* or *foul* play.  My teammates then start trash talking the opposing players, and sometimes even the referees.  They may try to throw punches and take cheap shots when they get the opportunity.  If you were to step back and observe me with my teammates outside of sporting events, you would never be able to predict that some of these people have that fierce anger and aggression wrapped up inside of them.  
  
Competition throughout athletics is a guaranteed way to discover the truth that lies within a person's hidden characteristics.  However, athletics is not the only type of competition that exists.  The most competitive aspect of my life is athletics, so I chose to reflect on the competitiveness within athletics.  The same types of attitudes and behaviors appear in all other competitive aspects in life.  People’s behavior will change, and competition will reveal some of their innermost characteristics whenever winning or becoming successful are the ultimate goals, no matter what type of competition is taking place.